

**RFR 07-04**





# ALASKA FLY FISHERS

Winners of the 1994 McKenzie Cup



Chair, Federal Subsistence Board  
c/o US Fish and Wildlife Service  
ATTN: Peter J. Probasco  
Office of Subsistence Management  
3610 C Street, Suite 1030  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

5 July 2007

RE: Final Rule 36 CFR part 242; 50 CFR Part 100, FR Vol 72, No. 87, 7 May 2007  
Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska, Subpart C;  
Nonrural Determinations

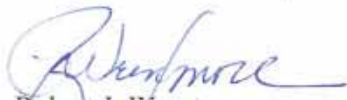
The Alaska Fly Fishers request Reconsideration of the subject final regulations, and particularly to reverse the decision to retain rural status for the communities of Cooper Landing, Hope and Ninilchik/Happy Valley.

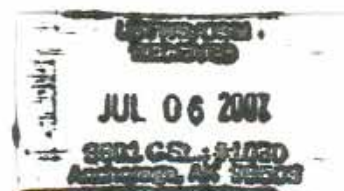
## RATIONALE:

The Federal Subsistence Board did not systematically and thoroughly evaluate (1) all the communities based on changes in population in the 2000 census under existing federal criteria, (2) did not conduct a fair and even-handed evaluation of all the characteristics described in the federal determination process, and (3) did not consistently apply the same basis for considering aggregation of communities or areas which are economically, socially, and communally integrated, as required under existing federal criteria.

The Board selectively evaluated data from the 2000 general census for only those communities recommended for reevaluation by the federal staff, recommendations which selectively applied characteristics to some communities, ignoring similar characteristics as they applied to other communities. In addition, criteria were selectively applied or presented in the federal analysis so that the Board relied on omissions, inconsistencies and mistakes to support its rural and nonrural determinations. The Board was, as a result, unable to evaluate factual and unbiased information during its deliberations and was instead forced to rely on analytical data which was neither systematic nor complete.

We particularly note the Board failed to consider changes in the social, economic and communal composition along the Cook Inlet coast of the Kenai Peninsula. All these communities are closely linked through business ties, a roadway system equal to or superior to anything in the state save that of the Anchorage Bowl/Matanuska Valley, even a common utilities infrastructure. There seems to be no defensible rationale to justify the finding of Cooper Landing and Happy Valley/Ninilchik and Hope to be rural.

  
Robert J. Wrentmore  
President  
Alaska Fly Fishers



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